

FSP: 0012 FOLDING LEG SYSTEM

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on November 5, 2002, claims 3-10 are objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Wallin, U.S. Patent 2,971,803. Claims 3-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Parsons, British Patent 2,049,025. Claims 9 and 10 would be allowed if adjusted to overcome the 112 objection and re-written in independent form. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-8 and added new claims 11-20. Claim 9 has been re-written in independent form and to overcome the 112 objection, and claim 10 still depends from (now independent) claim 9. The Office Action indicated such amendments would place the claims in condition for allowance, and therefore Claims 9 and 10 should now be allowed.

Claims 6-15 are amended to address the objection under 112.

Regarding the rejections under 102(b), the Applicant respectfully asserts that the patent to Parsons does not anticipate the invention of Claims 6-8. Many features of the claims are simply absent from Parsons. In particular, Parsons fails to teach the second bracket having a first section in which the second leg may rotate to a down position from an up position and a second section in which the leg is prevented from rotating into the down position from the up position, the second bracket adapted so that the second leg may slide along the pivot bolt from the first to the second sections. As these features are simply not taught, inherent, or suggested by Parsons, the rejection under 102(b) cannot stand.

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Nor does the patent to Parsons anticipate the invention of Claims 13 - 15. The bracket of Parsons lacks a first and second sections, the sections formed so that the leg may rotate around the pivot bolt in the first section but not in the second, and the leg may slide between the sections along the pivot bolt.

The patent to Wallin does not anticipate the invention of new Claims 11 and 12. Particularly, Wallin does not disclose the two sides of the bracket each comprising a hole to receive a pivot bolt through a leg when the leg is positioned between the sides. Wallin teaches a leaf spring 15 mounted on a hinge pin 13. The hinge pin 13 does not pass through the leg when the leg is mounted between the sides 22, 23. Furthermore, Wallin does not teach at least one side 22, 23 comprising a hole to receive a locking pin of a locking device 14 when the locking device 14 is positioned in the slots. Wallin also fails to teach at least one side 22, 23 comprising a hole to receive a locking pin of a locking device 14 when the locking device 14 is positioned in the slots, and a hole to receive a locking pin of a locking device 14 when the locking device 14 is not positioned in the slots. The Office Action apparently equates slots and holes. Respectfully, the Applicant asserts that a hole is not a slot. A hole is through the surface and surrounded on all sides by material. A slot is surrounded by material on less than all sides.

In light of the amendments and these remarks, please allow all claims.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Marked-Up Claims Pursuant to C.F.R. 1.121

6. (First Amendment) A folding leg system, comprising:

a first leg [adapted to receive a first pivot bolt];

a first bracket mounted on a surface, the first bracket coupled to the first leg by way of [the] a first pivot bolt such that the first leg can rotate in the first bracket between an up and a down positions;

a second leg [adapted to receive a second pivot bolt];

a second bracket mounted on the surface, the second bracket coupled to the second leg by way of [the] a second pivot bolt, the second bracket having a first section in which the second leg may rotate to a down position from an up position and a second section in which the leg is prevented from rotating into the down position from the up position, the second bracket adapted so that the second leg may slide along the pivot bolt from the first to the second sections; and

[wherein] the first bracket [is] mounted on the surface across from the second bracket, such that the first leg does not contact the second leg when the first and second legs are in the up position and the second leg is in the second section of the second bracket.

7. (First Amendment) The system of claim 6, further comprising:

the first bracket having a first locking pin hole aligned to receive a first locking pin when the first leg is in the up position; and

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the first bracket having a second locking pin hole aligned to receive the first locking pin when the first leg is in the down position.

8. (First Amendment) The system of claim 7, further comprising:

the second bracket having a third locking pin hole aligned to receive a second locking pin when the second leg is in the down position.

9. (First Amendment) A folding leg system, comprising:

a first leg;

a first bracket mounted on a surface, the first bracket coupled to the first leg by way of a first pivot bolt such that the first leg can rotate in the first bracket between an up and a down positions;

a second leg;

a second bracket mounted on the surface, the second bracket coupled to the second leg by way of a second pivot bolt, the second bracket having a first section in which the second leg may rotate to a down position from an up position and a second section in which the leg is prevented from rotating into the down position from the up position, the second bracket adapted so that the second leg may slide along the pivot bolt from the first to the second sections;
the first bracket mounted on the surface across from the second bracket, such that the first leg does not contact the second leg when the first and second legs are in the up position and the second leg is in the second section of the second bracket;

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the first bracket comprising first slots aligned to receive a shaft of a first locking device when the first leg is in the down position; and

the second bracket comprising second slots aligned to receive a shaft of a second locking device when the second leg is in the down position.